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St. Luke's

St. Lukes, four miles south of Smithfield-- the oldest existing church of English foundation in this country and the nation's only surviving original Gothis building-- has entered a new era.

More than 1500 people came and went Saturday, attending the all-day services in which the church was rededicated as a National Shrine. Metal highway markers lead to it as such and a telegram from President Eisenhour expressed the gratitude of the nation.

The once crumbling church has been restored and now is Physically able to fulfill its role as a chapel of ease", said Richard Howland, president of the National Trust for Historical Preservation, oneo the day's speakers.

The hope that this will be "God's house for all", that people will visit these grounds and feel a renewal of strength and faith", that they will kneel down in gratitude within these walls and go forth with highest hopes" was voiced by Henry Mason Day, native this area of Virginia but now a New Yorker, who is president of the Historic St. Luke's Restoration Committee.

"The three Jordan girls, who spearheaded the project" were mentioned by Day, one of the afternoon speakers.

Miss Elizabeth Jordan was there then. Ella and Susan had attended the religious services in the morning and had had to return home because Ella was not well. There ances tors have been associated with St. Luke's since its foundations were dug in 1632.

a baptismal font which is

"When she found five years ago that the foundations were being reduced to powder", Sue sat down and wept", Elizabeth said. Then she